

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

7. A method for ~~selectively proliferating the cell of Claim 6, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 6 to a ligand capable of acting on the “ligand binding domain” of the fusion protein of Claim 1~~ causing selective proliferation of a cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a cell including a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said cell; and

(b) exposing said cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said cell.

Claims 8-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for ~~selectively proliferating the cell of Claim 15, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 15 to a ligand capable of acting on the “ligand binding domain” of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector of Claim 8~~ causing selective proliferation of a cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a cell comprising

(i) a desired exogenous gene; and

(ii) a gene encoding a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and

a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said cell; and
(b) exposing said cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said cell.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (new): The method of claim 7, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

Claim 19 (new): The method of claim 7, wherein said second polypeptide comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to said cell is derived from a G-CSF receptor.

Claim 20 (new): The method of claim 7, wherein said cell is a blood cell.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said second polypeptide comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to said cell is derived from a G-CSF receptor.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said desired exogenous gene

and said gene encoding a chimeric protein are located on the same molecule.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said desired exogenous gene and said gene encoding a chimeric protein are located on separate molecules.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein said cell is a blood cell.

Claim 26 (new): A method for causing selective proliferation of a cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a cell including a vector that expresses a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said cell; and

(b) exposing said cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said cell.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 26, wherein said steroid hormone receptor gene is an estrogen receptor gene.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 26, wherein said second polypeptide comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to said cell is derived from a G-CSF receptor.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 26, wherein said cell is a blood cell.

Claim 30 (new): A method for causing selective proliferation of a cell, said method comprising

(a) providing a cell including a vector that independently expresses

(i) a first gene that encodes a desired exogenous gene product; and

(ii) a second gene that encodes a chimeric protein comprising a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to said cell; and

(b) exposing said cell to a ligand capable of binding to said ligand binding domain of said first polypeptide of said chimeric protein, thereby causing selective proliferation of said cell.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30, wherein said steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 30, wherein said second polypeptide comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to said cell is derived from a G-CSF receptor.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 30, wherein said cell is a blood cell.